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SALT TWO
SESSION I
A-99

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION
U.S. SALT DELEGATION
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

DATE: 16 December 1972

TIME: 7:10 - 8:45 p.m.

PLACE: Soviet Mission

SUBJECT: Standing Consultative Commission

PARTICIPANTS: US

USSR

S. N. Graybeal

John P. Shaw

V. V. Smolin

E. N. Kochetkov

At Smolin's request, the participants met to continue their discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding and the draft paragraphs for the Regulations of the Standing Consultative Commission.

Memorandum of Understanding

Following some discussion, the two sides reached agreement on the second sentence of the 4th paragraph which would read as follows: "Sessions shall also be convened, as soon as possible, following reasonable notice, at the request of either Commissioner."

Regarding paragraph 1, Smolin said that the proposed U.S. addition was unnecessary as this point was covered in paragraph 2.

The U.S. participants agreed to delete the suggestion on an ad referendum basis.

Smolin agreed with our editorial changes in paragraphs 2 and 3. (The U.S. changes referred to above and elsewhere in this memorandum were those presented by the U.S. participants earlier this morning on the basis of instructions.)

Thus, the U.S. and Soviet participants recorded agreement on the Memorandum of Understanding on an ad referendum basis.

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Regulations

Smolin opened the discussion of the draft paragraphs for the Regulations by stressing the importance the Soviet side attached to the revised title tabled this morning. (See separate memcon.) Graybeal responded by saying that the U.S. side insisted on the format of the document to which the Soviet side agreed earlier, namely, the inclusion of the heading "Joint Draft Text" and the "ad referendum" footnote. If the Soviet side were to agree to this format (they had withdrawn their agreement earlier today), the U.S. side might have some flexibility regarding the title.

Smolin then raised the question of procedure, that is, the initialling by the Heads of Delegation of the document as proposed by Minister Semenov. Graybeal said that the U.S. Delegation had no instructions on this point, but noted that initialling would seem to run counter in some sense to its instruction. Smolin said that the status of the document is important, but that the Soviet side recognized that the final regulations will be drawn up in the SCC. There is agreement here.

Smolin at this point suggested a new footnote and dropping the reference to Joint Draft Text in exchange for accepting the Soviet title. Without commitment to these conditions, Smolin, Graybeal and Shaw discussed at length alternative language for a footnote.

Smolin then offered a proposition to accept the Soviet title plus a compromise footnote but drop the reference to "Joint Draft Text." After a lengthy discussion between Smolin, Graybeal and Shaw, Smolin then suggested acceptance of the Soviet title, acceptance of the reference to the Joint Draft Text, and retention of the original U.S. footnote. Graybeal said that he would report this proposition to the U.S. Delegates. Smolin then backtracked from this suggestion. Graybeal repeatedly stressed that the word "Basic" in the Soviet title seemed to imply a degree of formality of agreement which would be counter to the spirit of the document. Smolin responded that this was a qualifying word and in keeping with the U.S. word "Guidelines." On this understanding, Graybeal said that if agreement were reached on the Soviet title, the reference to the Joint Draft Text, and retention of the U.S. footnote, he would recommend to his Delegates that the Heads of Delegations initial the document, even though he had no authority to support initialling at this time.

Shaw endorsed this proposal and summed up the package deal as follows:

- (1) acceptance of the Soviet title tabled this morning;
- (2) inclusion of the reference to the Joint Draft Text;
- (3) retention of the U.S. footnote;
- and (4) acceptance by the Soviet side of the revised U.S. paragraph 8 tabled

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earlier today. Graybeal agreed with this summing up, ad referendum to Delegates. Smolin agreed on the same basis. At the same time, he stressed the importance the Soviet side attached to its revised title and to the initialling of the document by Heads of Delegation. He said further that to attempt to change these two positions would create bureaucratic problems in Moscow and lead to extensive delays.

Concerning other lesser changes proposed by the U.S. side this morning, in regard to paragraph 1 and paragraph 7, Smolin agreed to all of them.

Thus, agreement was reached by the two sides on this document ad referendum to Delegation.

Procedures

Concerning a question raised by Shaw this morning, Smolin said he was instructed to report that the Soviet Delegation had no objection to a signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding which would be open to the press if the U.S. side so wished. Graybeal said he would report this to his Delegation but noted that the Delegation had not yet addressed this matter.

Smolin further said that his delegation would be in contact with the Soviet Ambassador in Berne regarding notification to the Swiss along the lines discussed this morning.

Graybeal promised that he and Shaw would inform their Delegates on Monday morning of the results of this evening's conversation. It was tentatively agreed that Graybeal, Shaw, Smolin and Kochetkov would meet at 11:00 a.m. Monday morning, provided that they had received further instructions from their respective Delegates.

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